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Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-ninth year

Identical letters dated 21 July 2014 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

The atrocities and heinous crimes that continue to be perpetrated by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip compel me to write to you again to appeal for urgent action by the international community to bring an end to this Israeli aggression and save innocent civilian lives.

An immediate ceasefire is needed to put a halt to the war crimes and human rights violations being committed with impunity by the Israeli occupying forces against the besieged and suffering Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip. We recognize the regional and international efforts being exerted towards a ceasefire, including the important support and efforts by the Secretary-General and the calls by the Security Council for a ceasefire, and appeal for greater efforts to help bring an end to the bloodshed and destruction.

For the fourteenth day, Israel, the occupying Power, has continued its airstrikes and artillery assaults on densely populated civilian areas throughout the Gaza Strip. Today, Israeli occupying forces brutally killed multiple members of three extended Palestinian families: a family of 11 persons in Rafah, a family of 26 persons in Khan Younis and a family of 5 persons in Gaza City. The slaughter of these families follows the massacre committed by the occupying forces yesterday, 20 July, in the Shuja'iya area of Gaza City, where more than 70 Palestinians were killed, deepening the vast trauma and horror being borne by our people under this criminal and inhumane Israeli occupation and military onslaught on civilians.

The Palestinian death toll has now exceeded 520 people. In addition, the number of injured now exceeds 3,500, so many of them severely injured and facing a life with permanent disabilities, including loss of limbs and eyesight. The ability of medical personnel to cope with the needs of the population and treat the wounded has been overwhelmed by the volume of death and injury being caused by these savage Israeli attacks and by the shortages in medicines and medical supplies that have long

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plagued Gaza owing to the illegal Israeli blockade. Further exacerbating the situation is the audacity of Israel, the occupying Power, in striking hospitals and medical facilities, including a strike on Al-Aqsa Hospital in Deir Al-Balah today, in which at least five Palestinian civilians were killed and many others injured, and extensive destruction was caused to large portions of the hospital, including the surgical and maternity wards. Such barbaric and criminal actions must invoke condemnation from the international community, and for these crimes, and all others being perpetrated against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable.

I am compelled to convey further details to you in this regard, in documentation of the vast crimes being carried out by Israel, the occupying Power, in grave breach of international law:

Israeli strikes on Gaza last night and into this morning resulted in the massacre of at least 26 members of the Abu Jami family in Khan Younis. Many more family members are feared to be under the rubble, as paramedics are not able to get to the scene, and those paramedics who have, are overwhelmed by the extent of death and destruction wrought by the occupying Power. As of now, medics have identified 13 victims of the Abu Jami family as Jawdat Tawfiq Ahmad Abu Jami (age 24), Tawfiq Ahmad Abu Jami (age 5), Haifa Tawfiq Ahmad Abu Jami (age 9), Yasmin Ahmad Salamah Abu Jami (age 25), Suhaila Bassam Abu Jami, Shahinaz Walid Muhammad Abu Jami (age 1), Rayan Tayseer Abu Jami (age 8), an elderly woman, Fatima Mahmoud Abu Jami, Rozan Abu Jami (age 14) and a neighbour, Ahmad Salhoub (age 34).

Israeli shelling has also killed 11 members of the Siyam family in Rafah, including Sumud Nasser Siyam (age 26), Muhammad Mahrous Salam Siyam (age 25), Badir Nabil Mahrous Siyam (age 25), Ahmad Ayman Mahrous Siyam (age 17), Mustafa Nabil Mahrous Siyam (age 12), Ghayda Nabil Mahrous Siyam (age 8), Sherin Muhammad Salam Siyam (age 32), Dalal Nabil Mahrous Siyam (8 months), and Kamal Mahrous Salamah Siyam (age 27), who were all pulled from beneath the rubble of their destroyed home. And five members of the al-Yaziji family, including Yasmin Nayif al-Yaziji, Mayar Nayif al-Yaziji (age 2), Wajdi al-Yaziji, Safinaz al-Yaziji, and Anas al-Yaziji (age 5), were also killed today by the Israeli occupying forces in Gaza City.

In addition to the above crimes against humanity and war crimes by Israel, at least 72 Palestinians, among them 17 children, 14 women and 4 elderly persons, were massacred by Israeli occupying forces in the Shujaiya area of Gaza, on Sunday, 20 July. Tragically, the number of human beings killed in this single attack against this civilian populated area will continue to rise, as the occupying forces are preventing the entry of medical assistance and personnel to the area, and many of the bodies of Palestinian civilians are still underneath the rubble of what was once their homes. Paramedics who were able to get to the scene of the massacre somberly stated: "There are no injured in Shujaiya, only dead".

Among the dead children from this criminal massacre in Shujaiya are Ibrahim Ammar (age 13), his brother Assem (age 4) and their sister Iman (age 9); Saji Hasan Al-Hallaq (age 4), his brother Kinan (age 6) and their sibling Mohammed (age 2); Shadi Isleem (age 15) and his siblings Alaa (age 11) and Fadi (age 10); Samia Al-Sheikh Khalil (age 3) and her sister Hiba (age13); Khalil Al-Hayyeh (age 7) and his sister Umama Al-Hayeh (age 9); Dima Isleem (age 2); Mohamad Ayyad (age 2); Rahaf Abu Jumaa (age 4); Tala Al-Attawi (age 7); Dina Hamada (age 15); Omar Hamouda (age 10); Ghada Ayyad (age 9); Marah Al-Jammal (age 11); and Marwa

Al-Sirsawi (age 3). The Palestinian children who were massacred have names, and they have mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, grandparents and friends, who are all grieving their violent deaths and are devastated by this massive loss of human life and innocence.

In addition to the children mentioned above, many more children have been brutally killed by the Israeli occupying forces since our last letter to you on 17 July 2014. In this regard, on Thursday, 17 July 2014, Fulla Tariq Shuhaibar, Afnan Shuheiber (age 8), Jihad Issam Shuhaibar (age 10) and Wasim Issam Shuaibar (age 9) were killed in an airstrike on their family home in the Sabra neighbourhood of Gaza City; Ahmad Ismail Abu Musallam (age 10), his sister Wala (age 12) and their brother Muhammad (age 15) were killed when a shell hit their bedroom in northern Gaza; Rahaf Khalil Al-Jbour (age 4) was killed by an airstrike on her home in Khan Younis; Yassin Al-Humaidi (age 4) died of injuries sustained during a strike on Gaza City; Mohammad Shadi Natiz (age 15) and Mohammed Salim Natiz (age 4) were killed by Israeli tank shelling, east of Gaza City.

Moreover, tragically, on Friday, 18 July, eight members of the Abu Jarad family, including five children, Siham Mousa Abu Jarad (age 15), Ahlam Na'im Abu Jarad (age 13), Haniyeh Abdelrahman Abu Jarad (age 3), Samih Na'im Abu Jarad (12 months old) and Mousa Abdelrahman Abu Jarad (6 months old), were killed by an Israeli missile fired into their home in Beit Hanoun, in northern Gaza. Also, on Saturday, 19 July, five more Palestinian civilians were mercilessly killed by the shelling by the Israeli occupying forces in Beit Hanoun, in northern Gaza, including four members of the Al-Zuwedi family: Mahmoud Al-Zuwedi, his wife Dalia and their two children, Nagham (age 2) and Ro'ya (age 3). The fifth family member was Mohammad Al-Zuwedi (age 20).

Amid all of this death and destruction, the humanitarian situation facing the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip is extremely dire and assistance is urgently needed. According to reports, more than 900,000 Palestinians are suffering from a lack of adequate access to water and sanitation services. Eighty per cent of the population receives electricity for just four hours a day. According to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), more than 81,000 Palestinians, the majority of them refugees, have been displaced and are seeking shelter in 61 Agency buildings. Since 7 July, at least 85 schools and 18 health-related facilities have been damaged, many extensively. At least one doctor has been killed and at least 19 medical staff injured, and at least four ambulances damaged.

Moreover, conservative estimates are that at least 72,000 children now require specialized psychosocial support due to trauma caused by the death or injury of someone they know or the loss of a home, and merely as a result of witnessing the barbaric savagery of the Israeli occupying forces. Additionally, the thousands of Palestinian children in Gaza, who constitute the majority of the civilian population, are living in terror at the deafening explosions of missiles and bombs, the sounds of bombs fired, and the bright flashes of fire from homes set ablaze by the incessant Israeli aerial bombardment and shelling of civilian areas.

We call on the international community to act now to end Israel's aggression against the Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip and in all of Occupied Palestine, including East Jerusalem. Grave violations of human rights, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and State terror are being perpetrated by Israel, the occupying Power,

against the Palestinian people in the West Bank. All such Israeli crimes must end as well as measures of collective punishment and excessive and indiscriminate force against the Palestinian civilian population, including peaceful protestors demanding the end to the aggression against their brothers and sisters in the Gaza Strip.

Strong and immediate international action is required, including by the Security Council, to demand a halt to Israel's military operations and to protect civilian lives. While recognizing the importance of the emergency meetings recently held by the Council and press statements made by the President of the Council in this regard, we stress that more must be done, in line with the Council's duties and resolutions as well as international humanitarian law, to demand an end to Israel's aggression against the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip and to ensure compliance by Israel with all of its legal obligations, including with regard to the protection of civilians. The responsibilities of the international community in this regard, including the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention, are clear and must be upheld.

We continue to hope that the efforts under way by President Mahmoud Abbas with regional and international leaders will bring about a permanent ceasefire as well as a substantive and sustainable improvement in the conditions of the Palestinian people living in Gaza, including by lifting the eight-year-long illegal and immoral blockade imposed by the occupying Power, in collective punishment of 1.8 million people. The Security Council must do all that it can to save civilian lives and prevent the further exacerbation of the humanitarian situation and further destabilization by upholding its primary responsibility under the Charter to maintain international peace and security. Every moment of inaction by the international community that passes means more death, destruction and devastation for the Palestinian people. Every moment of inaction that passes means more war crimes by the occupying Power, for which Israel must be fully held accountable, with all perpetrators, including government leaders and army officials and soldiers, held responsible for their crimes against the Palestinian people. For the sake of the Palestinian people, it is our hope that history will document the actions by the Security Council to stop this Israeli onslaught against the Palestinian people.

This letter is in follow-up to our 508 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 17 July 2014 (A/ES-10/641-S/2014/506), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine
to the United Nations

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Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-ninth year

Identical letters dated 23 July 2014 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

In the 24 hours since the Security Council met yesterday to consider the ongoing crisis in the Gaza Strip, I deeply regret to inform you that more than 60 other Palestinians have been killed by the Israeli occupying forces. As we continue to appeal to the international community to stop this barbaric Israeli aggression, and as regional and international efforts are being exerted to secure a ceasefire, Israel, the occupying Power, is instead choosing to intensify its military onslaught on the defenceless Palestinian civilian population it holds captive under its occupation throughout the occupied State of Palestine, and in particular in the besieged Gaza Strip.

Since our letter of Monday, 21 July (A/ES-10/642-S/2014/513), the number of innocent children, women and men killed and injured by the occupying Power has risen dramatically. The death toll, since the start of this Israeli war 15 days ago, now stands at more than 660 Palestinians killed. Shockingly, at least one third of all casualties are children under the age of 18 and more than half of the children killed thus far by the occupying Power were under the age of 12, exposing the brutality of the Israeli occupying forces and the false claims regarding respect for civilian lives.

As of today, 23 July 2014, the number of Palestinians injured stands at more than 4,220 people, many of them seriously injured and in need of urgent medical care that is not available in Gaza, which, owing to the blockade, is already plagued by a shortage of medical supplies and life-saving equipment. In this regard, hospitals and medical centres also continue to be targeted by Israeli occupying forces. Following the deadly attack by Israel on Al-Aqsa hospital in Deir al-Balah two days ago, today Israeli warplanes struck at Al-Wafa hospital in central Gaza, traumatizing sick and injured patients and forcing the doctors, nurses and staff struggling to care for them to flee for safety. Such attacks, without a doubt,

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constitute grave breaches of international humanitarian law, war crimes for which Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable.

The humanitarian impact of Israel's relentless bombardment against densely populated civilian areas in Gaza is vast. The occupying forces have destroyed 1,090 homes, partially demolished 994 homes and damaged more than 18,070 other homes. Moreover, owing to the destruction inflicted on water and sanitation lines, more than 900,000 people are without running water, deepening the immense humanitarian suffering being endured by the population. More than 110,000 Palestinians have been displaced by this aggression and have sought shelter in United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) schools, already double the number of persons who sought refuge from the 2008-2009 Israeli war on Gaza. However, we must stress that no place in Gaza is safe, as demonstrated by Israeli strikes in the past two days at an UNRWA school sheltering displaced Palestinians in central Gaza. UNRWA condemned in the strongest possible terms the shelling of its school, stated that the location of the school and the fact that it was housing civilians had been formally communicated to Israel on three separate occasions, and called for an immediate and comprehensive investigation.

Several Palestinians were also injured when Israeli forces bombarded the 700-year-old Al-Shamaa mosque (also known as Bab al-Darum) in the Al-Zaytoun neighborhood of Gaza City before noon today, yet another strike at a place of worship during this holy month of Ramadan. It should be noted that as of today, the occupying forces have caused damage to at least 65 mosques and two churches in Gaza.

As the list of Israeli crimes grows by the minute, I am compelled to share with the international community just some of the horrifying crimes it has deliberately perpetrated against the Palestinian people in recent days in grave breach of international law and human rights:

- On 22 July, Israeli forces killed four members of the Hajjaj family in Gaza City. Among the dead were Rawan Ziad Hajjaj (age 15), Yousef Muhammed Hajjaj (age 28), Muhammad Shehadeh Hajjaj (age 31) and Fayzeh Saleh Hajjaj (age 66).

- Also on 22 July, Israeli occupying forces killed two elderly women in Rafah in southern Gaza, Hakema Nafe Abu Odwan (age 75) and Najah Nafe Abu Odwan (age 85).

On 21 July, the Israeli occupying forces carried out a number of attacks that killed multiple members of several Palestinian families in Gaza. They included:

- Approximately 25 members of the Abu Jami family and 3 others were killed by an Israeli missile strike on a home in Khan Younis in southern Gaza. The majority of those murdered were children and women, two of whom were reportedly pregnant.

- 10 members of the Al-Qassas family were killed, including 6 children, and 4 others wounded when Israeli occupying forces shelled their home in Gaza City. The dead children were 3-year-old Saman, 4-year-olds Arwa and Mohamad, 7-year-olds Isra' and Nesma and 13-year-old Layma.

- 11 people, including six members of the Kelani family, were killed, and 40 others injured when Israeli warplanes attacked a high-rise apartment building in Gaza City, reducing most of it to rubble. The dead family was identified as Ibrahim Kelani, his wife and their four children.

- On 20 July, a young Palestinian man, searching for family members in the rubble of the Shujaiya neighborhood of Gaza City, was shot several times and killed by an Israeli sniper in a horrific incident that was captured on video.

We note that calls are being made by international human rights organizations worldwide, among them Israeli organizations, calling for an immediate end to Israel's aggression and detailing the extent of the war crimes by the occupying Power that have been committed to date. In this regard, on 21 July, Amnesty International USA issued a statement entitled "Attacks on Medical Facilities and Civilians Add to War Crime Allegations", stating, among other things, that "the continuing bombardment of civilian homes in several areas of the Gaza Strip, as well as the Israeli shelling of a hospital, add to the list of possible war crimes that demand an urgent independent international investigation".

Even though the international community has repeatedly called on Israel to end its bloody aggression against the Palestinian people, Israel, as it has previously, deliberately chooses to ignore those appeals and continues instead with its campaign of devastation and destruction against the Gaza Strip and its civilian population. The international community must continue to demand that the occupying Power immediately end its aggression, its gross collective punishment and all other crimes and violations it is perpetrating against the Palestinian people throughout the occupied State of Palestine, including East Jerusalem.

The Security Council in particular must heed the calls from countries all over the world to shoulder its responsibilities, a call that was firmly and loudly made in the open debate of the Council on 22 July 2014. The Security Council must exert all efforts to bring about an immediate, durable ceasefire and an end to the illegal eight-year blockade and to provide protection for the Palestinian people. These steps are urgent to stop the bloodletting, stem the deterioration of the humanitarian situation and restore calm, following which the Security Council and international community as a whole must undertake urgent, serious and collective efforts to address the underlying causes of this crisis and the root causes of the conflict as a whole, at the core of which is Israel's 47-year-old belligerent military occupation, the source of the grave crisis, suffering and loss being endured by the Palestinian people.

This letter is in follow-up to our 509 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 21 July 2014 (A/ES-10/642-S/2014/513), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations

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Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-ninth year

Identical letters dated 24 July 2014 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

In less than 24 hours since my letter to you yesterday, more than 120 Palestinians, including 10 members of one family, have been killed by the Israeli occupying forces. The death toll now stands at more than 790 Palestinians killed, the majority of them children and women, and more than 5,000 persons injured, as Israel, the occupying Power, continues its bloody aggression against the Palestinian civilian population in the besieged Gaza Strip.

Today, Israel, the occupying Power, proved yet again its absolute disregard for human life and the rules of international humanitarian law intended to prevent such military assaults against civilians. Once again, the Israeli occupying forces have targeted a school of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), causing more deaths and injuries among already-traumatized civilians displaced from their homes and sheltering in the school, including many who were demanded by the occupying Power in earlier days to leave their residential areas. It is imperative to recall that during Israel's 2008-2009 war on Gaza, Israeli tanks shelled an area outside an UNRWA school in Jabaliya refugee camp, killing 42 people and injuring dozens, a crime in which the occupying Power deliberately targeted areas and buildings housing the largest number of civilians, but for which Israel has never been held accountable.

Witnesses have reported that Israeli artillery shelling hit the school in Beit Hanoun in broad daylight. This attack on a clearly marked United Nations installation, for which the occupying Power had the exact coordinates and information that the school was sheltering civilians, resulted in the killing of at least 17 Palestinians and injuries to more than 200 displaced persons sheltering there. This is the fourth time in two days that Israeli occupying forces have bombed schools serving as shelters in the besieged Gaza Strip; those incidents include the firing on a girls' school in Maghazi refugee camp, where hundreds of displaced

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Palestinians had been sheltering. In this regard, at the time of writing of this letter, more than 148,000 Palestinians are sheltering in UNRWA schools in Gaza, seeking safety from Israel's military onslaught and suffering from the dire humanitarian circumstances.

We strongly condemn Israel's attack on the UNRWA school in Beit Hanoun and the killing of innocent civilians, who believed that they and their children would be safe under the United Nations flag. We demand an immediate, impartial and thorough investigation into this grave incident in order to establish accountability and bring the perpetrators of this crime to justice. Such grave breaches of international humanitarian law and such gross violations of the inviolability of United Nations premises must not remain unpunished.

As the list of Israeli crimes grows by the minute, I am compelled to share some of the horrifying details emerging from Gaza under Israel's assault since our last letter to you. It must be borne in mind that this does not represent an exhaustive list of the crimes being deliberately perpetrated by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people at the present moment:

- Israeli occupying forces killed at least 10 members of the Al-Astal family, including three children — Amin Tha'er Al-Astal (age 3), Nada Tha'er Al-Astal (age 5) and Mohammed Ismail Al-Astal (age 17) — in two separate attacks on civilian homes in Khan Younis in southern Gaza.
- Israeli occupying forces killed five members of the Abu Aita family, including an 11-year-old boy in Jabaliya in northern Gaza. Among the dead were Ibrahim Abdullah Abu Aita (age 67), Jamila Salim Abu Aita (age 65), Ahmad Ibrahim Abdullah Abu Aita (age 30) and Adham Ahmad Abu Aita (age 11).
- Israeli occupying forces targeted a motorbike with a missile from a warplane in 'Absan to the east of Khan Younis, killing four Palestinians, including a child, Baker Al-Najjar (age 13).
- Israeli occupying forces shelled 'Absan and Bani Suheila in Khan Younis district, killing seven Palestinians.
- Yazid Sa'ed Al-Batsh (age 23) succumbed to his wounds, tragically adding yet another member of the Al-Batsh family to the casualties resulting from Israeli shelling of their home on 14 July.
- Amir Adel Siyam (age 13) was among others who were killed by an Israeli raid on Rafah.
- Hadi Abdulhamid Abdulnabia (age 1) was killed in Jabaliya.
- In the farming village of Khuza'a, near Khan Younis, at least 25 civilians are believed dead and 16 wounded. Two thirds of the homes have been destroyed and 60 per cent of the population has fled, while the rest are prevented from leaving by ongoing attacks and sniper fire.
- Of the Palestinians killed, three were UNRWA staff: a 55-year-old woman who had served UNRWA for 20 years, who was killed in an attack on 20 July in which her husband and the youngest of her six daughters were injured; a 30-year-old UNRWA teacher, who was killed after fleeing the violence in Shuja'iya and as she was sheltering at her sister's home, which was bombed in an attack on 21 July that killed 10 other family members; and a 40-year-old

UNRWA teacher, who was killed on 23 July at the Zaitoun school emergency shelter, where he was assisting displaced Palestinians.

- As medical facilities continue to be targeted by the occupying forces, at least three hospitals have now been forced to evacuate their patients following Israeli strikes, causing overcrowding in other hospitals, such as Nasser hospital in Khan Younis, which is struggling to cope. In addition, the depletion of essential medicines and medical supplies has reached critical levels.

Even though international and regional efforts continue in the region, the international community is duty-bound to take the measures necessary to bring an immediate end to this Israeli military onslaught against the defenceless Palestinian civilian population in Gaza. Too many innocent lives have been lost to this barbaric, inhumane aggression. Moreover, the international community must exert the pressure necessary to compel the occupying Power to lift the illegal blockade, by which it has wilfully inflicted a humanitarian disaster in Gaza for more than eight years, affecting every single man, woman and child and every single dimension of life.

With regard to international efforts, we note and welcome the convening of the special session of the Human Rights Council on the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which was held yesterday, 23 July, in Geneva, and at which the Council adopted a resolution in which it decided to establish an independent, international commission of inquiry to investigate all violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

We wish to highlight the statement made before the Human Rights Council by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay, in which she expressed deep concern over possible Israeli "war crimes" in Gaza and said that:

> A number of incidents, along with the high number of civilian deaths, belies the claim that all necessary precautions are being taken. ... People — particularly the elderly, sick and those with disabilities — are not given sufficient time to scramble out of their homes. When they do manage to run out into the street, there is nowhere to hide and no way of knowing where the next shell or missile will land.

We remain persistent and relentless in our call on the Security Council to shoulder its responsibilities and exert all efforts to bring about an immediate, durable ceasefire, put an end to the illegal eight-year blockade and provide protection for the Palestinian people. Every moment that this remains elusive means the deaths of scores of Palestinians, the destruction of more Palestinian civilian infrastructure, a worsening in the already dire humanitarian situation and the deepening of wounds and the intensification of rage among generations of Palestinians. This tragedy underscores, yet again, the need for urgent and serious efforts by all concerned to address the underlying causes of this crisis and the root causes of the conflict as a whole, if the international community truly ever wants to achieve an end to this conflict, which is the source of such great instability and turmoil, and a just and lasting peace among the Palestinian and Israeli peoples.

This letter is in follow-up to our 510 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000

(A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 23 July 2014 (A/ES-10/643-S/2014/519) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations

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Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-ninth year

Identical letters dated 25 July 2014 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

On this eighteenth day of the Israeli military aggression against the Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip, the Palestinian death toll has climbed to more than 840 people, including at least 190 children and 40 elderly persons, and more than 5,300 Palestinians have been injured.

More than 160,000 Palestinian civilians have been displaced, as desperate civilians continue to flee destroyed homes and neighbourhoods and fear has impelled the majority of these civilians to seek refuge in United Nations schools and facilities as the Israeli attacks continue by air, land and sea. Using all means of heavy weaponry, the Israeli occupying forces are causing human devastation as well as the massive destruction of civilian properties, inciuding homes, hospitals and schools, and infrastructure, with more than 1 million people now affected by the destruction of electricity, water and sanitation networks. Moreover, United Nations premises have not been immune from this Israeli campaign of wanton destruction, as shown by the attack yesterday on an elementary school of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East in Beit Hanoun, which claimed the lives of at least 17 Palestinian civilians.

The destabilizing impact of this Israeli military aggression has reached beyond the Gaza Strip into the West Bank, where outrage at the Israeli attacks on Gaza and deep resentment have also gripped the population, leading to widespread protests and unrest, including in Occupied East Jerusalem, where the occupying Power continued to severely restrict the entry of Palestinian worshippers to Al-Haram Al-Sharif, even during this Muslim holy month of Ramadan. Yesterday, tens of thousands of Palestinians took part in a peaceful civilian demonstration, marching from Ramallah to the Qalandiya checkpoint imposed by Israel between the city and Jerusalem. At Qalandiya, as in other areas of the West Bank, including in Bethlehem, Al-Khalil, Beit Ummar and Nablus, demonstrators were met with

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excessive, lethal force by the Israeli occupying forces, which resulted in the killing of several Palestinian civilians and the injury of scores of people.

Among the casualties of Israel's brutality in the West Bank were: Hashem Abu Maria (age 47), Tayeb Abu Shehada (age 22), Sultan Al-Zaaqiq (age 30), Mohammed Eyad Al-Araj (age 19), Abdelhamid Ahmed Ebreighith (age 39), Mahmoud Saleh Hamamrah (age 36), Majd Sufyan (age 27) and Eid Rabah Fdeilat (age 28). Also killed was a Palestinian youth, Khalid Azmi Yousef (age 18), who was shot by settler terrorists that fired from their car at a crowd protesting near Nablus.

Among those killed in the ongoing Israeli airstrikes and bombings in Gaza were:

- Jihad Hassan Hamad (age 20) was killed in an Israeli bombing in Rafah.
- Imad Abu Kamil (age 20) was killed in an Israeli attack on Al-Mughraqa in central Gaza. Also killed in an Israeli strike in the area were Tariq Zahad (age 22) and Samer Abu Kamil (age 26).
- Maram Fayyad, a 26-year-old woman, died of injuries from an Israeli attack in Deir Al-Balah.
- Shayma Hussein Abdelqader Qannan (age 23) was killed in Israeli shelling on her family home in Deir Al-Balah. She was pregnant and doctors at Al-Aqsa hospital were able to save her baby.
- Rasmiya Salama, a 24-year-old woman, died of injuries sustained in an attack in Khan Younis.
- Two more bodies were pulled from the rubble of destroyed homes in the Al-Zeitoun neighbourhood of Gaza City: Muhammed Yassin Siyam and Rami Muhammed Siyam.
- Salah Ahmad Abu Hassanain (age 45) and his two sons, Abdel Aziz (age 14) and Abdelhadi (age 9), were killed in an Israeli airstrike on their home in Rafah.
- Walid Said Al-Harazin (age 5) was killed by Israeli fire in the Al-Shujaiya neighbourhood.
- Najat Ibrahim al-Najjar, a 35-year-old woman, was killed and five others were injured when their house was targeted in Khan Younis.
- The body of Iyad Nasser Sharab was pulled from under the rubble of his house, which was targeted in an Israeli strike in southern Gaza.
- Sharif Muhammad Hassan (age 27), Muhammad Khalil Hamad (age 18) and Mamdouh Ibrahim Al-Shawwaf (age 25) were killed in an Israeli shelling on Khan Younis.

Israel's blatant disregard for Palestinian life is repeatedly proven in the growing list of casualties resulting from its wanton use of force against the civilian population, which the occupying Power is obligated to protect but to which it persistently causes harm and suffering. We thus reiterate our calls upon the international community to urgently act to compel Israel to stop this onslaught against the Palestinian people and act to provide urgently needed protection to them.

The Security Council, in line with its Charter duties, must address this crisis, which clearly constitutes a threat to international peace and security. The ongoing diplomatic efforts in the region do not absolve the Council of its responsibilities. The Council must adopt a resolution that demands, inter alia, an end to the Israeli aggression in Gaza and respect of international law, including for the protection of civilians and for an end to the collective punishment of our people, including an end to the illegal Israeli blockade of Gaza, and that calls for the provision of emergency assistance to alleviate the humanitarian crisis so ruthlessly inflicted on the Palestinian civilian population. We call upon the Security Council to shoulder its responsibilities in order to save human lives and avert further devastation and destabilization of this already grave situation.

This letter is in follow-up to our 511 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 24 July 2014 (A/ES-10/644-S/2014/530) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador, Permanent Observer
of the State of Palestine to the United Nations

United Nations A/ES-10/646–S/2014/551

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Tenth emergency special session
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Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-ninth year

Identical letters dated 30 July 2014 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I have been instructed to draw your attention to the most recent horrific incidents of war crimes and State terrorism committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied State of Palestine, in particular in the besieged Gaza Strip, where the humanitarian situation has become catastrophic owing to Israel's destructive and deadly military aggression.

Now in its twenty-third day, this Israeli war against the occupied and defenceless Palestinian civilian population in Gaza continues to cause high civilian casualties and massive human suffering. As at the time of writing of the present letter, at least 1,269 Palestinians have been killed by the Israeli occupying forces, using all means of lethal weaponry and warfare. Among the dead are at least 147 people pulled from the rubble of flattened homes on Saturday, 26 July, during the period of the humanitarian ceasefire.

This immense death toll includes approximately 287 children, along with 141 women and 57 elderly persons. Moreover, it must be brought to the attention of the international community that, from the onset of this barbaric Israeli war, the Ministry of Health has confirmed that the Israeli occupying forces have targeted 52 Palestinian families, brutally killing 285 members of those families. In addition, the number of civilians injured, many severely and permanently, continues to rise. In total, at least 7,110 Palestinians have been injured, including more than 2,164 children, 1,100 women and 282 elderly persons.

We are compelled to convey to you the list below, which includes just a small fraction of the multiple grave violations, many of them amounting to war crimes, committed by Israel, the occupying Power, since our last letter, of 25 July 2014. Some events that occurred prior to our letter, but for which information was not available at the time, have also been included.

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On 30 July:

- At least 15 Palestinian civilians were killed and almost 100 wounded when Israeli tanks shelled a United Nations school where 3,300 displaced people were taking shelter in Jabaliya, in northern Gaza. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) confirmed that it had informed Israel 17 times of the precise location of the Jabaliya school in order to ensure its protection and also that it had informed the occupying Power that it was sheltering Palestinian civilians. It should be noted that this marks the sixth time that a United Nations school has been hit by the Israeli occupying forces since 7 July. In a statement today, the UNRWA Commissioner-General, Pierre Krähenbühl, stated the following: "Last night, children were killed as they slept next to their parents on the floor of a classroom in a UN designated shelter in Gaza. Children killed in their sleep; this is an affront to all of us, a source of universal shame. Today the world stands disgraced."
- Further in this regard, as of yesterday, at least five more staff of UNRWA were killed by the shelling and strikes of the Israeli occupying forces.

On 29 July:

- The Israeli occupying forces killed 16 members of the Abu Jabber family, including four children, in the Al-Bureij refugee camp in central Gaza.
- Thirteen members of the Al-Agha family were killed, including four children, by Israeli airstrikes on three homes in Khan Younis, in southern Gaza.
- Israeli occupying forces killed a United Nations doctor and his brother in northern Gaza.
- Israel bombed Gaza's only power plant, which supplies two thirds of Gaza's electricity, putting it out of commission. Regarding the impact on Gaza's already severely damaged electrical grid, the United Nations has already stressed that "the additional reduction in electricity supply is expected to have a pervasive impact on the availability of food and access of people to basic services". Several areas are also now exposed to high public health risks owing to the mixing of sewage with piped water, as a result of unrepaired damages to the networks. It should be noted that prior to the bombing of the power plant, the civilian population in Gaza had already been without electricity for at least 20 hours each day.

On 28 July:

- Ten people, including eight children, were killed; 40 others were wounded by Israeli shelling at a park near the beach in Shati refugee camp in Gaza City. The attack took place while families were sombrely observing the holiday of Eid Al-Fitr, which marked the end of the month of fasting of Ramadan. One of the fathers who had been playing with his children at the park stated: "In the blink of an eye, I found body parts and heads cut off, no arms, no legs. I started to collect limbs, heads I couldn't recognize and I couldn't recognize my own children."

On 27 July:

- Eight Palestinians were killed and several more were injured in Gaza by the occupying forces.
- Israeli occupying forces shelled houses in Al-Salam neighbourhood in Jabaliya, northern Gaza, killing two Palestinians: a 22-year-old man and a 4-year-old child.
- Fourteen Palestinians were injured with live bullets during clashes with the occupying forces in Abu Dis, east of Jerusalem, in the West Bank. Occupying forces also shot a paramedic in the leg with live fire and injured two persons volunteering with the Red Crescent.

On 26 July:

- The bodies of 11 members of the Hilo family were pulled from the rubble of their home in Shejaiya, which had been bombarded by the Israeli occupying forces a week before.
- Shortly before a 12-hour ceasefire came into effect, approximately 20 members of the Al-Najjar family were killed, including 11 children, and many others were wounded when their home was attacked by the occupying forces in southern Gaza. According to reports, they had been trapped inside the home since Thursday.
- Palestinian rescue teams pulled the bodies of 85 Palestinians from under the rubble of homes completely levelled by Israeli shelling across the Gaza Strip.
- Israeli occupying forces heavily shelled Beit Hanoun hospital in northern Gaza, injuring 60 paramedics and patients.

On 25 July:

- Fifteen-year-old Abdullah Alathamna, who had lost his mother, two sisters and a foot when the Israeli military bombed his home in 2006, was injured again by an Israeli attack, suffering shrapnel wounds to the back and leg when Israeli occupying forces bombed his home again.
- Two Palestinians, aged 16 and 18, were killed overnight by live fire from occupying forces during riots in the West Bank in protest against the Israeli military aggression in Gaza.

On 23 July:

- The Palestine Cellular Communications Company announced that Gaza's only cellular telephone network was at risk of going down because of damage done by Israeli bombing.

In addition to the above, as a result of Israel's nearly three-week bombardment against Gaza, the humanitarian crisis, which was already extremely dire owing to Israel's eight-year illegal blockade, has declined to catastrophic levels. More than 240,000 Palestinians have been internally displaced and, of those, more than 180,000 have sought shelter in UNRWA schools. The high number of Palestinians being sheltered by the United Nations amounts to 10 per cent of the population of the Gaza Strip and is triple the number of persons who took refuge with UNRWA during Israel's devastating war against Gaza during the winter of 2008-2009.

Yesterday, 29 July, UNRWA spokesperson Chris Gunness warned of the severe strain on UNRWA capacity, stating: "We have reached breaking point with this massive wave of human displacement. This will leave the warring parties, especially the Government of Israel, to assume direct responsibility [for displaced Palestinians]."

Moreover, as of today, 22 hospitals, clinics and medical centres have been directly hit by Israeli fire and the occupying Power continues to target medical staff, including staff travelling in clearly marked ambulances.

While witnessing the horrifying images and testimonies from those on the ground, one cannot but recall many of the observations made by the United Nations Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict in the aftermath of Israel's so-called "Operation Cast Lead", in 2008-2009, which stated: "While the Israeli Government has sought to portray its operations as essentially a response to rocket attacks in the exercise of its right to self-defence, the Mission considers the plan to have been directed, at least in part, at a different target: the people of Gaza as a whole" (A/HRC/12/48, para. 1883). Tragically, the same can be said of Israel's current war on Gaza.

The international community, including the Security Council, must exert all possible efforts to bring this bloodshed and immense suffering of the Palestinian people to an immediate end and to hold Israel, the occupying Power, accountable for all of the grave breaches it has committed against the people whose land it occupies. The presidential statement issued by the Security Council on 28 July was an important step, but what is needed now is a strong Council resolution demanding an immediate ceasefire, the lifting of the blockade on Gaza and the immediate provision of protection for the Palestinian people under occupation. Here, we echo what was said by the UNRWA Commissioner-General in his press statement today: "We have moved beyond the realm of humanitarian action alone. We are in the realm of accountability. I call on the international community to take deliberate international political action to put an immediate end to the continuing carnage."

We urgently appeal to the international community to answer the calls of the Palestinian people under occupation, who are crying out in despair for help, as well to heed to the calls by all those who value the sanctity of human life, including the lives of the Palestinian people and their children. The killing must end. The suffering must end. The siege must end. It is beyond the time for the international community to make good on its promise and take all measures necessary to bring an end to Israel's occupation and all the ills that have become manifest as a result and allow the Palestinian people to live a free and dignified life in their independent State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

This letter is in follow-up to our 512 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 25 July 2014 (A/ES-10/645-S/2014/539) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador, Permanent Observer
of the State of Palestine to the United Nations

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Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-ninth year

Identical letters dated 1 August 2014 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

It is with deep regret and strongest condemnation that I must inform you that, despite the efforts made for and the assurances given regarding the 72-hour humanitarian ceasefire that was jointly announced last night by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and United States Secretary of State John Kerry, Israel, the occupying Power, has continued with its killing spree against Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip, killing today more than 130 people, including many children and women. At least 28 more bodies have been recovered from under the rubble of Palestinian homes, adding to the escalating death toll.

Although the ceasefire was to go into effect today, ! August, at 8.00 a.m. (Palestine time), the situation on the ground has further unravelled, as the Israeli occupying forces have persisted with the wanton killing of civilians and the destruction of civilian homes and properties, in particular in the south of Gaza in Rafah and Khan Younis, and the Israeli Government has issued threats of more "crushing" reprisals. Among those murdered today by the occupying forces were nine people, all from the same family (Al-Farra family), who were killed in their home in Khan Younis by Israeli tank shelling. Just hours after the above took place, the occupying Power declared that the ceasefire was effectively over due to the claimed capture of an Israeli occupying soldier in Gaza. Here it must be noted that, even after the occupying Power declared the ceasefire to be over, the Palestinian side, in its entirety, reaffirmed its respect for the ceasefire and President Mahmoud Abbas reaffirmed his commitment to dispatch a delegation representing all Palestinians to head to Cairo to engage in discussions to negotiate a durable, comprehensive ceasefire to bring an end to this horrific violence and to lift the siege of Gaza and address the longstanding, underlying causes of the current crisis.

As of today, it is estimated that over 1,600 Palestinians have been killed and over 8,700 have been injured by the Israeli occupying forces using all means of

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lethal weaponry and warfare. This shocking number of deaths does not even take into account the entire figure of those killed today in Rafah, as many remain trapped in the rubble of what were their homes. As has been the case with all past Israeli attacks against the defenceless and occupied Palestinian people in Gaza, large numbers of those killed continue to be women, children and elderly persons. Although the numbers are constantly rising, current estimates are that nearly 25 per cent of those killed in this Israeli offensive have been children, at least 12 per cent have been women and more than 60 elderly persons have been killed.

Each day that passes without an end to this barbaric Israeli aggression results in more loss of Palestinian life, more suffering and more irreversible trauma inflicted on our people. We therefore reiterate, with utmost urgency, our appeal for international protection to be provided for the Palestinian civilian population, who in Gaza are living under inhuman circumstances, with no clean water, no electricity, shortages of food, medical equipment and supplies and nowhere being safe from the Israeli onslaught. Hospitals have reached a breaking point, functioning on generators with electricity reduced to two hours a day in small parts of Gaza and zero hours a day in most parts. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) schools have reached capacity, with more than 250,000 displaced Palestinian civilians sheltering in an estimated 90 schools, a number that is four times higher than the peak number of displaced persons in the Israeli aggression of 2008-2009. Moreover, that number does not include the other hundreds of thousands of other civilians displaced from their homes, with the total number now reaching over 460,000 people, a quarter of Gaza's population. Morgues in Gaza are also filled to capacity, are over-stretched and have been inundated with bodies now laying on the floors.

The massive losses and destruction inflicted by the occupying Power have caused the dramatic deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Gaza, which has been declared a disaster area by the Palestinian leadership. In this regard, we must further underscore the urgent messages conveyed by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Valerie Amos, and by the Commissioner-General of UNRWA, Pierre Krahenbuhl, in their comprehensive briefings to the Security Council on 31 July 2014 regarding this grave humanitarian crisis and their appeals for the protection of civilians, respect for international humanitarian law and the provision of the necessary humanitarian aid to our besieged population in Gaza, which is becoming more vulnerable by the minute and suffering so immensely.

Below is a list of just a small fraction of the multiple grave violations committed by Israel, the occupying Power, many of them amounting to war crimes, which we are compelled to convey to you, since our last letter, dated 30 July 2014. We will continue to keep you informed of the escalating situation on the ground once information becomes available in order to more fully document these crimes against our people.

1 August 2014:

- 9 Palestinians of one family were killed and 16 others were injured in shelling targeting the Al-Farra family house in Khan Younis. Among the dead are: Abdulmalik Abdulsalam al-Farra (age 54), his son Usama Abdulmalik al-Farra (age 34), Imad Abdulhafiz al-Farra (age 28), Awatef Izz al-Din al-Farra (age 29), Muhammad Mahmoud al-Farra (age 12), Lujain Bassem al-Farra

(age 4), Yara Abdulsalam al-Farra (age 8), and Nadine Mahmoud al-Farra, and later Abdulrahman al-Farra (age 8) was pronounced dead when he succumbed to wounds he sustained during the shelling.

- At least 130 Palestinians have been killed today since the collapse of the ceasefire in intense shelling of Rafah by the Israeli occupying forces, including the perpetration of massacres in Rafah, where a one-ton bomb was dropped on a densely populated civilian area, and dozens more people have been killed in airstrikes and shelling of other areas.
- An Israeli airstrike hit an ambulance and killed a paramedic, Atef Zamili, and wounded seven passengers. Zamili's death brings to 16 the number of medical personnel who have been killed in Israeli strikes since the beginning of the assault 25 days ago. Moreover, this is thirteenth ambulance to be targeted in an Israeli attack.

31 July:

- Fadel Nader al-Mughazi, 27, was killed when Israeli occupying force warplanes targeted a motorcycle in eastern Rafah.
- Five Palestinians were killed in an Israeli occupying force artillery attack that targeted a group of people in the town of Abasan, south-east of Khan Younis. Among the dead were Naji Abu Mustafa, Hani Abu Mustafa, Ashraf Abu Tuaima, disabled Falastenie Abu Tuaima, and Mohammed Fuad Khamis al-Najjar.
- Adham Siyam, a child, died of his wounds, which he sustained in an Israeli bombing on Rafah, in the southern Gaza Strip, a few days ago.
- Aref Barakah (age 58) was killed as an Israeli occupying force artillery shell hit his house in Deir al-Balah in central Gaza.
- A 23-year-old mother, Maha Abu-Helal, was killed, and her husband and two children were injured, when Israeli bombardment targeted her house in Rafah in the morning hours.
- Baraa Ibrahim (age 19) died of his wounds, sustained in an attack on Al-Nusseirat refugee camp.
- Ahmad Loah (age 22) died of his wounds, which he sustained in earlier Israeli shelling, while being treated at a hospital.

30 July 2014:

- An Israeli assault on the market in the Al-Shujaiya area, east of Gaza City, killed at least 17 Palestinians and injured scores of others. The assault was carried out during the period of the supposed humanitarian ceasefire on Wednesday.
- The attack on Al-Shujaiya killed three journalists — Mohammed Daher, Sameh Al-Aryan and Rami Rayyan — and killed a paramedic. In total, at least 11 journalists have been killed in Israeli strikes and bombings since the start of the aggression.

Moreover, today, 1 August, several civilian protests took place in the West Bank, in solidarity with their brothers and sisters in the besieged Gaza Strip, including in the city of Al-Khalil, where thousands of people took part in protests. As has been the case throughout the years of occupation, the occupying forces used indiscriminate, excessive lethal force that resulted in the killing and injury of more Palestinian civilians. In the city of Tulkarem in the northern West Bank, a young man, Tamer Faraj Smour, age 22, was killed by the occupying forces, and in the village of Safa, north-west of Ramallah, Odai Nafez Jabr, age 19, was killed by live fire from the occupying forces. More than 90 Palestinians in Al-Khalil alone were injured by Israeli use of live ammunition.

Israeli measures of collective punishment against the population have also continued in the West Bank, including the ongoing arrest and detention of Palestinian civilians in military raids. Israeli settler terror and violence have also persisted in this climate of aggression and hatred fomented by the Israeli Government. In this regard, on 31 July, several Israeli settlers attacked and attempted to kidnap a Palestinian youth while he was on his way to work in the village of Deir Yasin, west of Jerusalem. Ali Al-Abassi (age 21) said that settlers beat him up and pepper-sprayed his face and tied him with a rope, attempting to kidnap him. He was able to free himself from the settlers, after a failed attempt to force him in their car.

The current situation throughout the occupied State of Palestine, especially in the Gaza Strip, is beyond grave. On our part, the Palestinian leadership continues to call for respect of the 72-hour humanitarian ceasefire, with the aim of bringing an end to the slaughter of our people and an end to this crisis. The Palestinian side on all fronts is committed to the ceasefire and demands that Israel, the occupying Power, respect its commitments. In this regard, we call for all efforts to be exerted in the context of the talks planned in Cairo, through the good offices of Egypt, to immediately and concretely address the catastrophic situation in Gaza and achieve a permanent and durable ceasefire. In support of this effort and in an urgent appeal for reprieve for gravely suffering people in Gaza, we urge all members of the international community to contribute to helping solidify the 72-hour humanitarian ceasefire, which could allow for desperately needed aid to reach the Palestinian civilian population in Gaza and allow for the necessary space to deal with the far deeper-rooted issues that have for too long been ignored, with such far-reaching and disastrous consequences for so many innocent people.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 513 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 30 July 2014 (A/ES-10/646-S/2014/551), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer
of the State of Palestine to the United Nations

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Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-ninth year

Identical letters dated 4 August 2014 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

The Palestinian death toll continues to rise as Israel, the occupying Power, continues to trap, traumatize and terrorize the more than 1.8 million Palestinians living in the besieged Gaza Strip. The tragic and continuous climb in the number of casualties is reflective of the brutality and indiscriminate nature of Israel's ongoing onslaught against the Palestinian population in Occupied Gaza, in grave breach of all norms and rules of international humanitarian law and human rights law. The list of war crimes, crimes against humanity and acts of State terrorism by the occupying Power against the defenceless Palestinian civilians captive under its occupation is growing by the minute. It goes without saying that the Palestinian leadership, on behalf of its people, will exert every possible effort to ensure that those responsible for these heinous crimes are held accountable and brought to justice.

As of today, it is estimated that at least 1,850 Palestinians have been killed by the Israeli occupying forces using all means of lethal weaponry and warfare. The shocking number of those killed includes 402 children, 241 women and 74 elderly persons. This number tragically translates to one Palestinian being killed by the occupying Power every hour during the past 28 days of this aggression. Even more telling of the disregard of Israel for civilian life and its deliberate killing of civilians is the fact that, as at 30 July, at least 76 families had lost three or more family members in the same incident, totalling 407 fatalities. Moreover, more than 9,450 people have been injured, including 2,805 children, 1,823 women and 342 elderly persons, by the Israeli occupying forces. Many of those injured are suffering from permanent disabilities and many have been severely burned, including many children who will have to live the rest of their lives with the physical and permanent memories of the savage brutality of Israel against them.

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The critical shortage of medical equipment and medicines has left many of those injured struggling to survive. According to the United Nations Gaza emergency situation report of 3 August 2014:

> Gaza's medical services and facilities are nearing collapse, with hospitals and clinics overwhelmed. Critical supplies of medicines and disposables are almost depleted and the destruction of power supplies has left hospitals dependent on unreliable backup generators. The status of hospitals and medical facilities as protected objects under international law continues to be violated with more attacks reported ...

This is in addition to the fact that medical officials are now reporting that cases of viral meningitis have increased from 5 to 53 per day, while Israeli attacks are preventing the collection of decomposing bodies, posing further and significant health risks, in addition to the rise of communicable diseases, particularly among the over 200,000 displaced civilians sheltering in schools of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

In addition to the above — and although a seven-hour humanitarian ceasefire was announced unilaterally by the occupying Power after world condemnation of the criminal shelling of yet another UNRWA school that resulted in the killing and injury of more innocent women, men and children — Israel has continued its attacks against Palestinian residential areas in Gaza. According to reports, Israeli occupying forces targeted the home of Al-Bakri family in Al-Shati Camp, killing a young girl, Aseel Al-Bakri, age 8, and injuring another 30 people.

Before moving on to the many other war crimes committed by the occupying Power, the Palestinian leadership wishes to put on record and to join the international community in the strong, unequivocal condemnation of the Israeli missile strike outside a United Nations school in Rafah on Sunday, 3 August. That strike killed at least 10 civilians, including 5 children, and wounded dozens of others, who had been sheltering at the school and were queuing for food rations at the time of the attack. United Nations officials stated that, as in previous times, they had informed the occupying Power of the exact location of the school, where approximately 3,000 Palestinians had sought refuge. In fact, UNRWA officials had informed the occupying Power 33 times in an attempt to prevent it from being bombed, the final time just one hour before the attack. We recognize the statement by the Secretary-General deeming this attack a "moral outrage and a criminal act", as well as the clear position of the State Department of the United States of America in this regard, including the statement that: "The suspicion that militants are operating nearby does not justify strikes that put at risk the lives of so many innocent civilians."

We continue to appeal to the international community for international protection to be provided to the Palestinian civilian population, which in Gaza is living under unbearable, inhumane circumstances, with no clean water, no electricity, shortages of food, medical equipment and supplies, and nowhere being safe from the Israeli onslaught. The humanitarian situation is appalling, with over 485,000 people, almost one quarter of Gaza's population, forcibly displaced and sheltering in UNRWA schools — with more than a quarter of a million people taking refuge in United Nations shelters alone — as well as in mosques, churches and hospitals, places they believe to be safe, but are all in fact areas that continue to be attacked by Israeli occupying forces.

All of the internally displaced are in need of emergency food assistance. Moreover, 1.5 million people not in shelters have no or extremely restricted access to water. There is an urgent need for drinking water and water for domestic use as well as access to sanitation and hygiene articles for the displaced. In its Gaza emergency situation update of 1 August 2014, the United Nations noted that: "The establishment of primary health clinics in shelters, alongside the delivery of multivitamins and antibiotics, is urgently needed to avoid the outbreak of infectious diseases." And today, Gaza is witnessing just that, as insecticides and medicines are needed in Rafah to treat epidemics, such as lice and scabies, which have started to spread in shelters.

Moreover, to date, since 8 July, Israel's war on Gaza has now caused over $5 billion in damage to homes and infrastructure in Gaza. At least 5,510 homes have been completely destroyed, and 30,000 homes partially destroyed, including numerous multistorey buildings. At least 24 medical facilities and 141 schools have been damaged by Israeli shelling. At least six teachers are known to have been killed. Psychological trauma among the Palestinian people continues to rise and there are now 373,000 children who require specialized psychosocial support owing to trauma caused by the death or injury of someone they know or the loss of their home. Of course, the number of those women and men who have had to bury their children and other members of their family or who have witnessed this man-made catastrophe unleashed by the occupying Power and lost basically everything is extremely high and requires immediate attention as well.

In addition to what is mentioned above, below is a list of just a small fraction of the multiple grave violations committed by Israel, the occupying Power, since our latest letter of 1 August 2014 (A/ES-10/647-S/2014/563), many of them amounting to war crimes, that we are compelled to convey to you. We will continue to keep you informed of the escalating situation on the ground once information becomes available in order to document more fully these crimes against our people.

3 August 2014:

- Ten members of the Al-Ghoul family, including three children and two women, were killed, and 20 others injured by an Israeli missile attack on their home in Rafah. The dead included a baby who was less than three weeks old
- Eight members of the Najim family were killed, and 30 others wounded, by an Israeli airstrike on a home in the Jabaliya refugee camp. Those who were killed had returned to Jabaliya after the Israeli occupying forces announced on Saturday that residents of northern Gaza could go back to their homes. Among the dead were Bilal Abd al-Karim Najim, Abd al-Karim Najim, Ahmad Abd al-Karim Najim, Raghad Najim and Suha Najim
- The Al-Amal hospital in Khan Yunis was reportedly hit by an Israeli missile

2 August 2014:

- Six members of the Abu Madi family were killed, including four children, when Israeli occupying forces fired a missile into their home in Al-Nuseirat refugee camp

1 August 2014:

- As was mentioned in our letter on 1 August 2014, the Israeli occupying forces killed at least 150 Palestinians (at the time of our letter the number had been 130) and wounded hundreds of others in Gaza after Israel declared the 72-hour humanitarian ceasefire over, which had been set in place after intense international and regional efforts were exerted. At the time, the occupying Power had falsely asserted that an Israeli occupying soldier had been taken as a prisoner of war by Palestinians (he was later declared dead by Israel). In Rafah alone, near where the occupying soldier went missing, at least 123 people were killed, including 30 children and 14 women
- The Israeli occupying forces shelled Al-Najjar hospital in Rafah, forcing the evacuation of patients and staff

There is no doubt that the situation today throughout the occupied State of Palestine, from the Gaza Strip to the West Bank, where the occupying Power continues to carry out measures of collective punishment and unleash excessive and indiscriminate force against the Palestinian people, is beyond grave. The Palestinian leadership continues to call for an immediate ceasefire with the aim of bringing an end to the slaughter of our people and an end to this crisis, and therefore a Palestinian delegation travelled to Cairo for talks this past weekend to cement an end to the bloodshed. As of now, however, the Israeli side has refused to attend the talks, remaining intransigent, acting unilaterally and persisting with its war against our people. Yet, the Palestinian side continues to seek a ceasefire and comprehensive solutions to the problems that have for so long plagued Gaza, including the illegal Israeli blockade. Thus, the Palestinian side, on all fronts, has jointly proposed points on the way forward and has presented them to Egyptian and American mediators in Cairo.

The proposal for a ceasefire includes the Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, the end of the Israeli siege of Gaza and the sustained and regular opening of its border crossings, fishing rights up to 12 nautical miles off Gaza's coast and the release of Palestinian prisoners. In this regard, we call on the international community to exert all efforts for the occupying Power to engage in talks based on the minimum requirements, including respect for international law, that have been proposed by the Palestinian side in order to address concretely the catastrophic situation in Gaza and achieve a permanent and durable ceasefire to end the bloodshed and massacre against the Palestinian people by the occupying Power. If that effort is to succeed, the international community must be ready and willing to then exert all efforts to address the core issues that have for too long gone unaddressed in order to reach a just, comprehensive and lasting peace that today is needed more than ever.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 514 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 1 August 2014 (A/ES-10/647-S/2014/563), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations

United Nations A/ES-10/649–S/2014/585

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Security Council

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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-ninth year

Identical letters dated 12 August 2014 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

The situation in the Occupied State of Palestine, including East Jerusalem, remains extremely critical, as Israel, the occupying Power, persists with its violations of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, causing the continued deterioration of the situation in all aspects, including the continued suffering of the Palestinian people under its occupation, and further deepening despair and inflaming heightened tensions.

As you are well aware, the situation is particularly grave in the Gaza Strip, where the Palestinian civilian population, which has already suffered inordinately under Israel's eight-year inhumane blockade, is finding it nearly impossible to cope with the massive humanitarian disaster inflicted upon it by the 36-day Israeli military onslaught. In this regard, despite the fragile new 72-hour ceasefire that went into force at midnight on Monday, 11 August, in Gaza, the massive devastation, destruction, trauma and havoc wreaked by the occupying Power will make the task of recovery in the coming days and weeks a gruelling and painful experience.

As of today — and not taking into account the recovery efforts under way, in which rescue workers continue to pull dead civilians from the rubble of demolished homes — more than 1,940 Palestinians have been killed, of whom at least 1,400 were civilians, among them 467 children, 243 women and 87 elderly persons, and nearly 10,000 Palestinians have been injured, including at least 3,009 children, 1,912 women and 359 elderly, by the Israeli occupying forces in the recent military aggression. Using all means of military weaponry, the occupying Power has deliberately unleashed excessive, indiscriminate and disproportionate force against the defenceless civilian population in the Gaza Strip. These brutal killings and injuries were clearly committed by Israel in grave breach of international

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humanitarian law, which forbids, inter alia, wilful killing and the wilful infliction of great suffering or serious injury to the body or health of protected persons.

In addition to causing civilian casualties, the occupying forces have deliberately caused the wanton destruction of Palestinian property in the Gaza Strip, in grave breach of international humanitarian law. In this connection, at least 8,800 structures have been completely demolished and 41,420 homes have been damaged, rendering 100,000 people homeless. The humanitarian situation continues to be atrocious, with over 485,000 people, almost one quarter of Gaza's population, forcibly displaced and sheltering in schools of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) — more than a quarter of a million people are taking refuge in United Nations shelters alone — as well as in mosques, churches and hospitals.

Widespread destruction and damage has also been caused to vital infrastructure, such as Gaza's only power plant, and to several hospitals and schools, as well as to numerous public institutions and mosques and thousands of businesses, factories and agricultural lands. Of course, it must also be recalled that the occupying Power's rampage in the Gaza Strip did not leave the United Nations facilities there unharmed, as several UNRWA schools also came under Israeli attack, which caused the deaths of many Palestinians and United Nations staff and gravely damaged United Nations facilities.

We continue to appeal to the international community for international protection to be provided to the Palestinian civilian population, which in Gaza is living under unbearable, inhumane circumstances, with no clean water, no electricity and a shortage of food, medical equipment and supplies. Indeed, the extent of human suffering and destruction wrought by the occupying Power is vast. Trauma and suffering are widespread and deep, affecting nearly every single Palestinian woman, man and child in Gaza.

These actions by Israel, the occupying Power, have not only caused a grave humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip but, as we have reiterated on numerous occasions, also constitute war crimes. All of the crimes committed by the occupying Power must be thoroughly investigated and the perpetrators must be held fully accountable and brought to justice. In this regard, we stress our conviction that only accountability will bring an end to Israel's impunity and flagrant disregard for its obligations under international law, and we reaffirm the intention to continue to vigorously call for and to pursue accountability until the perpetrators of these crimes against the Palestinian people are punished and justice is served.

At the same time, I must draw your attention to the fact that Israel also continues to commit other grave breaches of international law throughout the rest of the Occupied State of Palestine, ensuring the continued destabilization of the situation and fuelling tensions and frustrations. Israeli occupying forces, and the extremist and terrorist settlers Israel has illegally transferred to the Palestinian land, have continued to brutalize the Palestinian civilian population in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Over the past week, Palestinians protesting Israel's aggression against their brothers and sisters in the Gaza Strip have been met with excessive and indiscriminate use of force and many have been killed; many others have been injured.

In addition, we are compelled to convey to you below a list of just a small fraction of the multiple grave violations, many of them amounting to war crimes, committed by Israel, the occupying Power, since our last letter dated 4 August 2014. We will continue to keep you informed of the situation on the ground once information becomes available in order to more fully document these crimes against our people.

5 August:

- Nidal Raed Olaiwa (age 12) died of wounds sustained as a result of an earlier Israeli airstrike that targeted a civilian car in Gaza City.

7 August:

- Rozi Talab Jaber (age 8) was severely injured when she was deliberately run over by a car driven by an Israeli settler in the city of Al-Khalil (Hebron) in the West Bank.

8 August:

- Ibrahim Zuhair Al-Dawawsa (age 10) was killed during an airstrike on Al-Nour Al-Mohammedy mosque in Al-Sheikh Radwan neighbourhood north of Gaza City. The Israeli strike also injured 14 people.
- Three Palestinians from the Abu Haddaf family were killed by an Israeli airstrike on their house in Al-Qarara town north-east of Khan Younis in the Gaza Strip.
- Shahd Oweiss (age 9) was severely injured when she was deliberately run over by a car driven by an Israeli settler south of the city of Nablus in the West Bank.
- Mohammed Ahmed Al-Qatari (age 19) was killed by Israeli occupying forces east of Al-Beira in the West Bank. He was left to bleed to death before his body was handed over to Palestinian medical crews.

9 August:

- Israeli shelling of Ezz Eldin Al-Qassam mosque in Al-Nusseirat refugee camp in central Gaza Strip killed three Palestinians and injured three others.
- Ayeh Anwar Al-Sha'er (age 13) was killed in an airstrike on her house in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip.
- An Israeli airstrike killed Abdel Hakim Suleiman Al-Masdar (age 56) and Mo'men Al-Masdar (age 19) as they rode a motorcycle in Al-Moghazi refugee camp in central Gaza Strip.
- Mahmoud Al-Jorani was killed by an Israeli strike in the city of Deir Al-Balah in the Gaza Strip.
- Tareq Ra'ed Abu Rmaila (age 13) was brutally beaten by Israeli settlers in Al-Khalil in the West Bank.
- Nader Mohammed Idriss (age 42) died of wounds sustained on 8 August when he was shot with live ammunition by Israeli occupying forces in Bab Al-Zawia in the centre of Al-Khalil during a protest against Israel's aggression on the Gaza Strip.

10 August:

- An airstrike against the house of Ayman Baraka in Bani Suhaila village, east of Khan Younis injured Mr. Baraka and killed his wife, Amani Al-Abd Baraka (age 35).
- Ahmed Al-Masri (age 17) was killed in a strike on agricultural lands south-west of Deir Al-Balah.
- Hassan Kawarei (age 24) and Ihsan Mahrous Al-Agha (age 23) were killed by an airstrike as they rode on a motorcycle in Khan Younis.
- Khalil Mohammed Al-Anati (age 11) was killed by Israeli occupying forces in Al-Fawwar camp, south of Al-Khalil.
- Fawzi Mohammed Fawzi Bahr (age 12) was injured by a rubber-coated steel bullet shot by Israeli occupying forces as he was standing in front of his house in Beit Amr, north of Al-Khalil.
- An Israeli airstrike targeted a car in Beit Hanoun killing Anwar Al-Zaanin and injuring two others.

11 August:

- Minutes before the ceasefire went into effect, Israeli occupying forces targeted Khan Younis, killing at least two Palestinians and injuring several others.
- Two bodies, still unidentified, were uncovered from under the rubble in Khozaa town, east of Khan Younis, and two other Palestinians died of wounds sustained as a result of Israeli attacks, including Maydaa Mohammed Aslan (age 18 months).
- Zakariya Al-Aqraa' (age 24) was killed by Israeli occupying forces after they attacked his house in Qablan town, south of Nablus, with grenades and heavy fire.

Clearly, the above-listed violations by Israeli occupying forces against the Palestinian people display, yet again, Israel's disregard of civilian lives and of international law and we call on the international community to firmly condemn such violations. Israel must finally be compelled to cease all of its grave breaches and violations against the Palestinian people and abide by its obligations under international law, including humanitarian and human rights law. The fact that the necessary measures were never taken by the international community to hold Israel accountable for its crimes against the Palestinian people has only encouraged the occupying Power to add another long list of war crimes to its heavy dossier. In this connection, we reiterate our call to the Security Council to shoulder its responsibilities with regard to the maintenance of international peace and security and immediately adopt the draft resolution before the Council to address the critical situation in the Occupied State of Palestine, especially in the Gaza Strip. The Palestinian people, especially the young children in Gaza who have only known war, siege and occupation for the entirety of their young lives, deserve a principled international position to ensure that they are spared further undue suffering.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 515 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000

(A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 4 August 2014 (A/ES-10/648-S/2014/567) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador, Permanent Observer
of the State of Palestine to the United Nations

United Nations A/ES-10/650–S/2014/607

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Security Council

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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-ninth year

Identical letters dated 20 August 2014 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

Regrettably, the cycle of violence has resumed and death and destruction are once again being meted out by Israel, the occupying Power, against the defenceless Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip.

As indicated in my letter to you of 12 August 2014, even throughout the entire period of the temporary humanitarian ceasefire and during the course of negotiations in Cairo for a permanent ceasefire agreement, Israel has never abided by the ceasefire, persisting with flying its warplanes above the Gaza Strip and with attacks by land and sea and now resuming its military airstrikes (A/ES-10/649-S/2014/585).

Over the past 24 hours, the Israeli occupying forces have carried out more than 60 military airstrikes against densely populated civilian areas in Gaza, killing at least 24 Palestinians, including children and women, and injuring more than 110 people. Among those murdered by Israel in this onslaught were six members of Al-Dalou family, including Mustafa Rabah Al-Dalou (age 14), his mother, Wafaa Hussein Al-Dalou, and Ahmad Rabah Al-Dalou (age 20), when Israeli warplanes struck their home in the Sheikh Radwan neighbourhood of Gaza City. Also killed in that strike were Widad Al-Deif (age 27) and her seven-month-old baby, Ali. The occupying forces also bombed the home of the Allouh family, killing eight of its members, including children, women and men, and injuring dozens of others. The dead included Mohammed Allouh and his two brothers, Raafat and Ahmed, as well as the wife of Raafat and their four young children. Also killed in Israeli airstrikes were a two-year-old girl, Nour Mohammed Abu Hasira, in the Al-Zeitoun neighbourhood east of Gaza City, and Mohammed Ahmed Al-Abeet (age 16) and Sahir Al-Abeet (age 11), near Deir Al-Balah in central Gaza. The intensity of the Israeli missile strikes and bombings has again flattened homes, and more civilians are feared dead as rescue personnel continue attempts to recover bodies trapped under the rubble.

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The facts are that Israel has not for a moment ceased any of its illegal, destructive actions, continuing to inflict losses and suffering on the Palestinian people throughout the occupied State of Palestine, including East Jerusalem, with military raids and attacks, home demolitions, arrests and detentions, and settler terror and provocations continuing unabated during this entire period. The situation in Gaza, in particular, has remained precarious, as the barbaric Israeli military aggression and blockade have created a catastrophic humanitarian situation.

As of today, more than 2,040 Palestinians in Gaza have been brutally and deliberately killed by the Israeli occupying forces, including at least 470 children, and more than 10,300 people have been injured, many of them critically wounded and facing imminent death. Of the injured, at least 3,000 are children, of whom an estimated 1,000 will suffer from a lifelong disability. This is just one of the many indications that human suffering and trauma continue long after hostilities end and the world s attention has turned away, and that, for many, that suffering tragically continues forever.

Additionally, more than a quarter of Gaza's population remains displaced, with over 390,000 Palestinians continuing to shelter in schools of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and with host families, and more than 100,000 people have been rendered homeless by the complete destruction of, or severe damage caused to, their homes by the occupying Power. Moreover, with vital infrastructure shattered, electricity and clean water remain scarce, hospitals remain overwhelmed, and infections and disease are spreading among the population. As all are by now aware, the humanitarian needs in this regard are staggering, and yet urgent recovery continues to be delayed in the absence of a permanent ceasefire and Israel's blatant intransigence and insistence on collectively punishing the 1.8 million Palestinians in Gaza in a grave breach of international humanitarian law, including the obligation to protect the civilian population, and in gross violation of their human rights, tantamount to war crimes and crimes against humanity by the occupying Power.

We condemn all of these flagrant Israeli violations and call on the international community, including the Security Council, to demand an immediate halt to the Israeli military aggression against the Palestinian civilian population suffering under its occupation. There is an international consensus that there is no military solution to this crisis, or to the conflict as a whole for that matter, and stopping the violence now is imperative for saving innocent civilian lives, too many of which have already been lost, and promoting an environment of calm in which to conclude a permanent ceasefire agreement that halts the hostilities and seriously addresses the root causes of this crisis, including the prolonged, illegal Israeli blockade of Gaza and all of the humanitarian, socioeconomic, political and security consequences in this regard.

We thus once again urge the international community to act forthwith to demand a permanent, comprehensive ceasefire and to support the efforts being exerted in Cairo towards that objective. Continued Israeli intransigence and brinksmanship in the negotiations must not be tolerated, allowing the situation to further destabilize and spiral out of control. The duty of the Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security must be upheld. In this regard, the draft resolution before the Council, in document S/2014/568 of 4 August 2014, represents a sound basis for serious action to be taken and we urge the Council members to undertake this responsibility without delay.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 516 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 12 August 2014 (A/ES-10/649-S/2014/585), constitute a basic record of the crimes that have been committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations

United Nations A/ES-10/651–S/2014/610

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Security Council

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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-ninth year

Identical letters dated 21 August 2014 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

In blatant contempt for the call reiterated yesterday by the Security Council for an immediate ceasefire, Israel, the occupying Power, continues its military airstrikes against the Gaza Strip, terrorizing the Palestinian civilian population as it wreaks further death, injury and destruction. The Palestinian nation continues to grieve as the death toll continues to rise and the lives of more innocent children, women, men and elderly persons are destroyed by this resumed Israeli onslaught.

Today, at least 29 more Palestinians have been deliberately and wantonly killed by the Israeli occupying forces in missile airstrikes, drone attacks and bombings on densely populated civilian areas. Israel has also resumed its illegal policy of targeted assassinations against Palestinians, boasting of its extrajudicial killing of several people in recent days in attacks that have also killed many civilians, including several members of the same families. Here, it must be recalled that the wilful killing and injury of persons is considered to be a grave breach as defined in article 147 of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War. For all these war crimes and crimes against humanity, the occupying Power must be held accountable.

Among those killed today by the Israeli occupying forces were four people hit by an Israeli drone-fired missile as they dug graves to bury their relatives at the Sheikh Radwan cemetery in Gaza City. The victims were Mohammed Talal Abu Nahl, Rami Abu Nahl, Haitham Tafesh and Abed Talal Shioukh. Another four people, all members of the Al-Reefi family, were killed in an Israeli airstrike on a garden near Al-Sunna Mosque in Gaza City. The victims of this barbaric attack were Nasr Ziyad Al-Reefi and three children: Omar Nasr Al-Reefi, Abdallah Tareq Al-Reefi and Mohammed Ziyad Al-Reefi. Today, the ninth member of the Allouh family, Iman Allouh, died of wounds sustained in an attack on her family home

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yesterday; she has met the same tragic fate of many of the injured who have not survived these barbaric Israeli attacks.

In a targeted assassination strike on a home in the Tel al-Sultan neighbourhood of Rafah, Israeli occupying forces killed three men: Mohammed Barhoum, Mohammed Abu Shamalah and Raed Attar. Also killed in that airstrike were an elderly man, Hassan Hussein Younis (age 75), and his wife, Amal Ibrahim Younis (age 74), and granddaughter, Saba Rami Younis (age 4), as well another woman, Aisha Attieh (age 60) and Ahmed Nasser Kullab (age 17). A 13-year-old boy, Hassan Tamboura, and Srour Tamboura (age 36) were also killed in an Israeli airstrike on Beit Lahiya, and a 17-year-old boy, Jumaa Matar, was killed in an attack on Al-Nusreirat refugee camp. Also today, Ibrahim Issam Hammad (age 22) and Marwan Abu Shalouf (age 28) were killed by an Israeli strike on a motorcycle in Rafah. Hamdan Salem Hadayed (age 40) was killed in a strike on Khan Younis.

The terror and panic caused by the ongoing Israeli military attacks on the Palestinian civilian population in all areas of Gaza has also caused a dramatic increase in the number of displaced persons fleeing their homes for safety, after a reduction in the number of displaced persons during the period of the temporary ceasefire. According to the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, there are now 435,000 Palestinians displaced in Gaza and figures of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) indicate that, at this time, more than 261,000 of the displaced are seeking shelter and protection in 82 UNRWA facilities. Here, we must again draw the international community's attention to the enormous humanitarian needs for water, food, medicines and hygiene and other essential services to these families, and reiterate the appeal for urgent donor support for the provision of emergency relief and assistance to them through UNRWA and United Nations partner agencies, including the World Food Programme, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

In this regard, children, who constitute the majority of the population of Gaza, continue to suffer disproportionately from the traumatic impact of this ongoing Israeli military aggression and the consequent insecurity, fear and despair that is plaguing the entire Palestinian civilian population. In the 48 hours since the temporary ceasefire collapsed, reports indicate that nine children have been killed and dozens injured in Israeli attacks; more are feared dead in the rubble of bombed homes.

As indicated by the UNICEF field office in Gaza, the situation of Palestinian children is extremely dire as they suffer through the third terrifying Israeli war in seven years, enduring massive physical, emotional and psychological trauma, having suffered the loss of their parents and other family and community members, witnessed the killing and injury of persons, and suffered the destruction of their homes, neighbourhoods and schools, the dispossession of their families and repeated displacement. Moreover, they continue to endure the multiple, far-reaching and traumatic effects of the pervasive poverty, hunger and illness deliberately inflicted by Israel in its successive wars on Gaza and by its inhumane blockade in gross collective punishment of the Palestinian people and disfigurement of the Palestinian society. As children around the world prepare to begin a new school year, the children in Gaza are facing the potential loss of their education opportunities if this

grave crisis continues and if the plight of the thousands of displaced sheltering in UNRWA schools is unresolved.

At the same time, Israel, the occupying Power, has been relentless in its oppression and torment of the Palestinian civilian population in the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. The illegal Israeli settlement campaign, home demolitions, arrests of Palestinians, including children, military raids of towns, villages and refugee camps, and all other methods of repression continue to be perpetrated by the occupying Power against the population. The Israeli violations are innumerable but for brevity I will only point out a few:

- Yesterday, 20 August, Israeli occupying forces raided the home of Palestinian Legislative Council member Khaleda Jarrar in the pre-dawn hours and issued to her a military order demanding that she be forcibly deported from her Ramallah home within 24 hours. We condemn this unlawful act of blatant harassment and forced transfer, which is the latest illegal action against a democratically elected official. In this regard, 36 elected officials remain in captivity, under detention or administrative detention, in Israeli jails.

- Also today, the Israeli occupying forces demolished four Palestinian homes in the Nablus area, one of which was 100 years old, rendering more Palestinian families homeless. Occupying forces also carried out numerous raids in villages surrounding Nablus, forcibly searching and ransacking homes and detaining more than 30 people for hours of interrogation. Israeli settlers in the Nablus area continue their reign of terror and violence against Palestinian civilians, as another Palestinian man, Nimer Mohammed Abu Eishah (age 32), from the village of Beit Wazan, was deliberately struck today by the car of a settler.

- A young Palestinian man, 30-year-old Muath Dureidi, who was travelling back into the West Bank for a new job, was kidnapped and detained by the Israeli occupying forces at an interrogation centre near Jenin for over 28 days without any explanation. For the duration of his captivity, neither his family members nor his lawyers were allowed to visit him and, by the time he was released — on a bail of 3,000 shekels — he had suffered a nervous breakdown and had gone completely mute.

We condemn the infliction of such trauma and terror on the Palestinian people — whether collectively or individually, in the Gaza Strip or in the West Bank — by Israel, the occupying Power. Moreover, we will neither relent in our calls for an end to all of these illegal, inhumane and destructive Israeli policies and practices, nor relent in our calls for all those responsible, whether Israeli government officials, military personnel or settlers, to be held accountable for all of these heinous crimes.

In closing, as we reiterate our calls for an end to the Israeli military aggression being waged against our people in the Gaza Strip and all other crimes against the Palestinian people in the rest of the Occupied State of Palestine, we also reiterate our calls on the international community to shoulder their legal obligations and political responsibilities in this regard. As Israel continues to lay waste to international law, we call on the international community, including the Security Council, to act forthwith to give meaning to the provisions of international

humanitarian law regarding the protection of civilians in armed conflict and to uphold the commitments in this regard. Serious international action and pressure are needed to compel Israel, the occupying Power, to abandon its intransigent and maximalist positions, cease its military offensive against the defenceless civilian population under its occupation and commit to the law and principles of peace that the Palestinian people, with strong global support, have long committed themselves to.

This letter is in follow-up to our 517 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 20 August 2014 (A/ES-10/650-S/2014/607) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations

United Nations A/ES-10/652–S/2014/621

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Security Council

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25 August 2014

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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-ninth year

Identical letters dated 25 August 2014 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to attach hereto a letter dated 25 August 2014 addressed to you from Riad Malki, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Palestine (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations

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Annex to the identical letters dated 25 August 2014 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

On behalf of the State of Palestine, I am writing to you to remind our fellow States members of the United Nations of their obligations to investigate and prosecute international humanitarian law violations over which they have jurisdiction, including war crimes committed by their nationals serving in the Israeli occupation forces.

The Israeli military currently has thousands of foreign nationals in its ranks. This total includes both Israeli dual nationals and non-Israeli volunteers enlisted through so-called Mahal programmes. These dual nationals and foreign nationals participate in Israeli combat operations within the territory of the occupied State of Palestine, including the current offensive in the Gaza Strip. Additionally, foreign nationals volunteering with the so-called Sar-El programme provide non-combat maintenance and logistics support to the Israeli occupation forces.

Israeli occupation forces have committed war crimes during the repeated assaults on Gaza in the present, as in the past. They have engaged in indiscriminate and disproportionate attacks. Such actions have caused death and injury to thousands of Palestinian civilians, including children, and massive destruction to civilian properties, in grave breach of international humanitarian and human rights law.

In declared acts of reprisal, Israeli occupation forces have also deliberately targeted vital civilian infrastructure in Gaza, including the only power plant and sewage network, deliberately causing widespread suffering among the civilian population. Throughout the offensive, Israeli occupation forces have also carried out attacks against clearly marked facilities sheltering displaced civilians, including six United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) schools in Gaza, despite prior knowledge of the location and coordinates of the schools and with the full knowledge that they housed thousands of displaced civilians.

International humanitarian law obligates every State to investigate alleged violations over which it has jurisdiction, including war crimes committed by its nationals. Under the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocols, States are obligated to take all measures necessary to suppress violations of international humanitarian law, including grave breaches, namely, war crimes. Further, States have a duty to investigate violations of international humanitarian law falling within their jurisdiction and to prosecute if appropriate. This responsibility is clearly stipulated in article 49 of the First Geneva Convention, article 50 of the Second Geneva Convention, article 129 of the Third Geneva Convention and article 146 of the Fourth Geneva Convention. Additionally, article 85 (1) of Additional Protocol I of 8 June 1977 incorporates by reference the provisions set forth in the aforementioned articles.

Furthermore, these obligations are specified in several other international treaties, including the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel, the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict

and the Second Protocol thereto, the Genocide Convention and the Convention against Torture. Additionally, the General Assembly called upon Member States to take forthwith all the necessary measures to cause the arrest of those war criminals who have been responsible for or have taken a consenting part in war crimes.

Palestine hereby calls upon all States members of the United Nations to meet these legal obligations with regard to the potential involvement of its nationals in international crimes relating to Israel's occupation of Palestine, including the ongoing Israeli offensive in the Gaza Strip, by:

- Identifying all of its nationals who are serving in or otherwise aiding Israeli occupation forces, including participants in the so-called Mahal volunteer brigade and the so-called Sar-El volunteer programme
- Notifying all such persons of alleged violations and war crimes committed by Israel during the current offensive in the Gaza Strip, the potential criminal liability for committing or contributing to the commission of war crimes, and each State's obligation under international humanitarian law to investigate potential war crimes within its jurisdiction and prosecute where appropriate; and investigating any allegations that its national were involved in the commission and/or the aiding and abetting of war crimes during the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip, and prosecuting these individuals where appropriate.

(*Signed*) Riad **Malki**
Minister for Foreign Affairs

recovered from the rubble of destroyed homes and buildings struck by Israeli missiles and bombs and do not include those who continue to tragically die from wounds sustained in Israeli attacks.

In this regard, Israel's wanton destruction of homes in Gaza has led to the death and the injury of thousands, and reduced entire neighbourhoods to rubble, rendering more than 103,000 Palestinians homeless. Two days ago, on 23 August, Israeli occupying forces intensified such premeditated criminal State acts of destruction by targeting a 12-storey residential building located in the heart of Gaza City. The residential building, Al-Dhafir 4, located in Tal Al-Hawa neighbourhood, was bombarded by two Israeli rockets that caused the entire building to crumble on impact. At least 22 people suffered injuries, including 11 children and 5 women, further contributing to the pain and trauma Palestinian children are tormented by daily. It is estimated that at least 45 families lived in the building; they are now among the hundreds of thousands who are displaced in Gaza and who have lost not only their homes but all of their possessions as a result of such wanton and indiscriminate Israeli attacks. Additionally, on 24 August, Israeli occupying forces destroyed a seven-storey office building and a three-storey shopping centre in Rafah, which had housed dozens of stores and offices used by doctors, lawyers and contractors, further destroying livelihoods and undermining needed civilian services in the suffering, blockaded Gaza.

We emphasize once again that almost all of Gaza's approximately 1.8 million people have been affected by this Israeli military aggression and require basic human necessities such as food, water and shelter, as well as other assistance, for their daily survival and will need extensive humanitarian support for even minimal recovery to begin. Moreover, it must be noted that attempts to deliver aid continue to be threatened and hampered by the ongoing Israeli attacks, decreasing the reach and benefit of aid to those in need during this crisis. The declaration of the Gaza Strip as a "disaster area" is an understatement, in the light of the deepening of this catastrophe with Israel's insistence to continue its destructive and deadly attacks.

Furthermore, the terror, violence and destruction that continue to be waged against the Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip, as well as in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, by Israel, the occupying Power, are persisting and mounting. While it is impossible to detail in this letter all the violations and war crimes that have been perpetrated, it must be pointed out that Israel, the occupying Power, has not relented in its illegal actions in the West Bank, as well as in killing, injuring and arresting Palestinians, including children, raiding villages and refugee camps, ordering the demolition of homes and persisting with its illegal Israeli settlement campaign.

In addition to the above, the following are some, not all, of the crimes perpetrated by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people throughout Occupied Palestine, especially in Gaza, in just the four-day period since my previous letter to you:

On 25 August:

- Ten Palestinians were killed in Gaza by Israeli airstrikes and two people died from wounds sustained in earlier attacks, bringing the total number of deaths to at least 12.

- A woman and a child were killed after occupying forces targeted a home in Beit Lahiya and several others were injured.
- Two Palestinians were killed and five were injured in a strike on Radad Tamboura's home in Al-Salatin, west of Beit Lahiya.
- Muhammad Shubeir was killed in an airstrike in Gaza City.
- Hani Muhammad Yasin died of wounds sustained several days previously as a result of an Israeli bombardment on Al-Zaytoun neighbourhood on 22 August.
- Nidal Badawi died from injuries sustained during airstrikes on Rafah.
- A woman, Farhana Attar (age 48), was killed in Beit Lahiya in northern Gaza.
- Yasin Al-Biltaji and Yahya Abu Daqin were killed and dozens were injured when Israeli warplanes fired missiles at a group of people in the Tuffah neighbourhood of Gaza City.
- Seven people were wounded in Jabaliya when an Israeli strike destroyed the Al-Kahlut family home.
- The Al-Ghoul, Nuthur, Karaja and Abu Aun family homes were destroyed in targeted strikes by the israeli occupying forces.
- The Omar Ibn Abd al-Aziz mosque was destroyed in Beit Hanoun, together with the Ali Ibn Abu Talib mosque in Gaza City.
- Hassan Hazim Abdelhamid Ashour (age 14) succumbed to wounds sustained after being shot in the chest and abdomen by Israeli occupying forces in Beit Furik, east of Nablus.

On 24 August:

- Israeli occupying forces killed seven Palestinians, including a baby girl, Zeina Bilal Abu Taqiyya (age 2), and a teenage boy, Muhammad Wael Al-Khudairi (age 17), and injured dozens more in Gaza's Sheikh Radwan neighbourhood in the central Gaza Strip.
- Five Palestinians from the Joudeh family, including four children, were killed when an Israeli military airstrike hit a house in the Tal Al-Zaatar neighbourhood in northern Gaza. The family members have been identified as Rawia Joudeh and her children Usama (age 6), Mohammed (age 8), Raghd (age 12) and Tansim (age 14).
- Israeli occupying forces fired three missiles at the Rafah crossing targeting the outer hall, which serves as a waiting area, causing major damage.
- The home of Usama Abu Samra in Deir Al-Balah was targeted, killing two people who remain unidentified.
- Yahya Omar Abu Al-Amrin died of wounds sustained in a strike on his home in Abraj Al-Fairuz, north-east of the Gaza Strip. Badr Abu Munei was also killed.
- Seven members of the Al-Ghalayini family were injured in a strike at their home north-west of Gaza.

On 23 August:

- Israeli occupying force airstrikes in Gaza killed 12 Palestinians, including five members of the Dahrouj family in Al-Zawayda, in the central Gaza Strip. The family members were identified as Khalil Shahda Abu Dahrouj (age 28), his wife, Huda Abu Dahrouj (age 26), their two small children, Abdullah and Hadi, and Khalil's aunt, Hayat Abu Dahrouj (age 47).
- Hussein Khaled Ahmad (age 8), his mother, Nisreen Ahmad, and two other people were injured in an airstrike on a home in Deir Al-Balah, in Gaza.
- Israeli occupying forces raided the Al-Jneineh neighbourhood in Rafah, claiming the life of one Palestinian and injuring three others.
- Abdul Rahman Salem Hadayed (age 25) succumbed to injuries he sustained when an Israeli F-16 fighter jet targeted a motorbike in Khan Younis in southern Gaza.
- Mohammed Saber Al-Ajla (age 64), was killed in Johr Al-Deek area in central Gaza.
- Suheir Abu Madyn's body was removed from under the rubble with another unidentified woman at the home of the Al-Mehassin family in Deir Al-Balah.

On 22 August:

- Forty people were injured when Israeli occupying forces struck a house in Al-Sabra neighbourhood in central Gaza.
- Yassin Hamed Abu Hamad (age 22) and Mahmoud Nasser Qashlan (age 23) were killed in an airstrike targeting a group of Palestinians near Ein Jalout in Al-Nusseirat camp in central Gaza.
- Musa Ahmed Al-Abadleh (age 23) was killed in an airstrike at his home in Al-Qarara in Khan Younis. His father, Ahmed Al-Abadleh, was also killed.
- Ismail Abu Abtehan (age 45) succumbed to wounds sustained in an Israeli strike.

These victims are not just numbers. They had lives, like you and I, and they had a right to live that has been taken, brutally and criminally, by Israel, the occupying Power, which clearly believes that force is the answer to everything. They had their coffee in the morning and kissed their children at night or were children who went to bed with their deepest fears and insecurity, never to live to see another day. We mourn their deaths, we grieve with their families and we are pained by the hardship and trauma that continue to be endured by our people in Gaza.

We condemn in the strongest terms these despicable violations by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian civilian population. Israel's nonchalant use of illegal policies against the Palestinian people shows its blatant dismissal of the value of Palestinian lives and of international law and is a symptom of the impunity that Israel has been permitted to enjoy for far too long. We call on the international community, including the Security Council, to condemn all of these illegal, immoral and inhumane Israeli actions against the Palestinian people. These actions must not be accepted as the norm, but must rather be treated as the crimes that they are and all measures must be taken to bring them to an end and to hold perpetrators at all levels responsible. Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable for all breaches of international law, humanitarian law and human rights law obligations to

which it is bound. The longer Israel continues to get away with murder with no reprimand or accountability, the longer the Palestinian people will suffer this travesty of justice, adding to the volumes of war crimes already committed by the occupying Power over many decades. The time to act is far overdue and we call on the international community to rise to the occasion and act immediately to uphold its responsibilities in this regard.

We repeat our message to the international community that this disproportionate, agenda-driven assault by Israel, the occupying Power, must come to a halt immediately and that a permanent, comprehensive ceasefire is paramount. We call on the international community to utilize all the political and legal means available to pressure Israel, the occupying Power, to cease the aggressions being waged against the Palestinian people, forcing this already devastating situation into further destabilization that has begun to spiral out of control. More specifically, it is the obligation of the Security Council to carry out its duty to maintain international peace and security. The world is watching and waiting for the Council to act and ensure that international law is upheld, especially with regard to international humanitarian law, addressing the protection of civilians in armed conflict, which the Palestinian civilian population is desperately seeking. Therefore, we insist that the Council act without delay in carrying out its responsibilities under the Charter.

This letter is in follow-up to our 518 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 21 August 2014 (A/ES-10/651-S/2014/610) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed against the Palestinian people. Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer
of the State of Palestine to the United Nations

United Nations A/ES-10/654–S/2014/615

Security Council

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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-ninth year

Identical letters dated 22 August 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith, on behalf of the countries that comprise the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America — Peoples' Trade Treaty (ALBA-TCP) — Bolivia, Cuba, Ecuador, Nicaragua and Venezuela — a copy of a joint communication on the current situation in the State of Palestine and the ongoing Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Samuel **Moncada**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 22 August 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

The Permanent Missions of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the Republic of Cuba, the Republic of Ecuador, the Republic of Nicaragua and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations, member States of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America — Peoples' Trade Treaty (ALBA-TCP), have the honour to address the President of the Security Council in the opportunity of strongly condemning the continued and systematic Israeli military aggression against the Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip, unleashed as of 8 July 2014.

We condemn the indiscriminate military attacks perpetrated by Israel, which have resulted in the deaths of over 2,000 Palestinians, particularly children, women and the elderly, as well as the countless injured. Likewise, the permanent bombing of Israeli forces have destroyed hospital, educational and housing infrastructure, as well as the network of basic services in the Gaza Strip, including United Nations facilities, causing an unprecedented humanitarian crisis.

Similarly, Israel has hampered humanitarian aid to Palestinians in Gaza, resorting to intimidation through their military action, as happened in Rafah on 20 August 2014, when a fighter aircraft dropped a bomb a few metres from where a Venezuelan delegation was delivering humanitarian aid, without it having luckily exploded.

It is necessary that the Security Council fulfils the responsibilities that the Charter of the United Nations provides for the maintenance of international peace and security. In this regard, we call upon its members to rally collectively for demanding that Israel ends these brutal actions against the Palestinian people in Gaza.

Until the Security Council does not adopt, due to the refusal of one of its members, a resolution for the immediate ceasefire and the lifting of the illegal blockade of the Gaza Strip by Israel, the international community will continue to witness this unacceptable slaughter.

The Israeli aggressions represent a flagrant violation of international law, including the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations, international law of human rights and international humanitarian law, hence constituting crimes against humanity.

Furthermore, we deplore the Israeli withdrawal from the negotiations in Cairo aimed at achieving a permanent and sustainable ceasefire; we encourage the parties to resume those talks.

We, the ALBA countries, reaffirm our support for the self-determination of the Palestinian people and their right for having a free, sovereign and independent State, with borders.

(*Signed*) Sacha **Llorentty Soliz**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia
to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Rodolfo **Reyes Rodríguez**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Cuba
to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Xavier **Lasso Mendoza**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Ecuador
to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Maria Clarisa **Goldrick**
Chargé d'affaires, a.i.
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Nicaragua
to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Samuel **Moncada**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela
to the United Nations

United Nations A/ES-10/655–S/2014/634

General Assembly
Security Council

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Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-ninth year

Identical letters dated 27 August 2014 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

While there is broad relief that a Palestinian-Israeli ceasefire agreement has been reached as a result of the mediation efforts of Egypt after nearly two months of the Israeli onslaught against the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip, it is our somber duty to draw the attention of the international community to the deep suffering of the many victims and the wanton destruction caused by this Israeli military aggression, which continued throughout the days the ceasefire was being negotiated. Even in the final hours, Israel persisted with its lethal use of force — its method of choice regarding any and every issue concerning the Palestinian people under its occupation — inflicting more loss and pain on innocent Palestinian civilians.

At least 12 Palestinians were killed in the last 24 hours before the ceasefire agreement was announced. Among those killed by the occupying forces were: Samer Hamad and Mohammed Dhaher, two utility workers, who were killed by an Israeli airstrike on a vehicle belonging to the Gaza electric company; Mohammed Muin Abu Ajwa and Hassan Omar Al-Sawwaf, who were killed by an Israeli missile strike targeting central Gaza City; Yousef Ghannam, Mohammed Al-Ribati and Ahmed Jarbou, who were killed in an airstrike on Al-Jneinah neighborhood of Rafah; and Mohammed Al-Zaanin, who was killed in an attack on Beit Hanoun. Also killed yesterday in an airstrike was another journalist, Abdallah Murtaja, whose death brings to 17 the number of journalists killed by the occupying forces in this aggression against Gaza.

The continuation of Israeli airstrikes Monday night and yesterday has brought the death toll to 2,143 Palestinians, the overwhelming majority civilians, including children and women, and ensured that the number of injured Palestinians surpassed 11,000 people, many of whom have been critically wounded by Israel's lethal

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weaponry and are struggling for their lives, and many of whom will not survive without life-saving medical treatments not available in Gaza.

Moreover, yesterday, 26 August, Israeli occupying forces targeted two more high-rise buildings in Gaza, causing the complete collapse of one and severe damage to the other. While the buildings were evacuated due to warnings of an impending strike, the 16-story "Italian Complex" building in the Nasser neighborhood of Gaza City was reduced to rubble, dispossessing the families that had lived in the 60 apartments of the building and destroying the livelihoods of the owners of shops housed in the building. The damage caused by the strike on the 14-story Al-Basha building in the Rimal area of Gaza has rendered the building uninhabitable and resulted in the injury of 15 Palestinians in the vicinity of the building.

This unjustifiable and deliberate destruction by the occupying Power has rendered hundreds more Palestinians homeless and destitute, in addition to the more than 103,000 people made homeless by this aggression and the hundreds of thousands of families that have been displaced from their homes and communities, many of which have sustained such extensive damage as to be rendered unlivable, the physical, social and human fabric of these communities destroyed by the Israeli onslaught. Moreover, we must underscore the fact that the entire population in Gaza continues to suffer the negative effects of this massive destruction to homes as well as of the water, sanitation and electricity infrastructure.

Clean water, proper sanitation and access to electricity remain scarce, impacting every single aspect of life for the population, including the provision of desperately needed aid to the displaced, a task made even more monumental under these circumstances, as attested to by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the United Nations Children's Fund and other organizations on the ground. This is at the core of the humanitarian disaster intentionally and punitively inflicted by Israel, the occupying Power, on the Palestinian people, and for which immediate international assistance is a priority to alleviate the immense and unbearable human suffering. In addition, the grave impact on socioeconomic conditions caused by Israel's destruction of hundreds of schools, hospitals and health facilities, factories, farms, mosques, parks and heritage sites throughout Gaza must also be given due and immediate attention.

In the period ahead, the Palestinian leadership will spare no effort to ensure that the needs of the Palestinian people in Gaza are addressed and that all required efforts and measures are taken to alleviate the suffering caused by the devastation and destruction wrought by Israel, the occupying Power, including immediate efforts for the lifting of the illegitimate, inhumane Israeli blockade on Gaza. We reiterate our appeals to the international community to uphold their political, humanitarian and ethical responsibilities in this regard to ameliorate this catastrophic situation through the generous provision of emergency assistance but also through the provision of hope to our people by the exertion of serious political efforts aimed at comprehensively addressing this crisis and its underlying causes, as all have acknowledged that the status quo ante is unsustainable and unacceptable.

In this regard, urgent efforts must be exerted by the international community, including by the Security Council in accordance with its Charter duties, to address this crisis, including to ensure respect of the ceasefire agreement, and to redress the

situation in its entirety, bearing in mind the exigency of providing a political horizon going forward. The recurrence of this tragedy in Gaza, as with the recurrence of the tragedies continuously inflicted by the occupying Power throughout the rest of the Occupied State of Palestine, including in East Jerusalem, underscore the urgency of acting collectively and resolutely to end this nearly five-decade-long military occupation — which has breached all tenets of international law and morality — and to finally realize the rights and independence of the Palestinian people, thus fulfilling the global objective of the two-State solution as the cornerstone for peace and security in the region.

This letter is in follow-up to our 519 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 25 August 2014 (A/ES-10/652-S/2014/621), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed against the Palestinian people, for which Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine
to the United Nations

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Security Council

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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-ninth year

Identical letters dated 2 September 2014 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

In every action and word, Israel, the occupying Power, is proving its total rejection of peace, preferring instead to persist with its illegal settlement activities and annexation schemes, imposition of blockade, use of force, arrest and detention of civilians, and countless other measures of collective punishment and repression against the Palestinian civilian population under its 47-year military occupation. And, with every action and word, Israel is destroying what little viability remains of the two-State solution for peace on the basis of the pre-1967 borders.

In the span of a week since the ceasefire agreement in Cairo that brought an end to Israel's criminal aggression against the Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip, where thousands of Palestinians, including children and women, were slaughtered and wounded by the Israeli occupying forces and massive destruction was inflicted throughout Gaza, Israel, the occupying Power, has carried on systematically with its vindictive, retaliatory and illegal behaviour against the Palestinian people and their land, leaving no doubt as to its cynical, deliberate intentions to perpetuate its occupation by all unlawful means, while falsely claiming victimhood and a desire for peace.

Israel's intensification of its illegal settlement campaign in the Occupied State of Palestine, including in East Jerusalem, in grave contravention of the Fourth Geneva Convention, United Nations resolutions, and the clear demands of the international community for a halt to this illegal colonization campaign, is one of the most blatant indicators of the Israeli rejection of peace. On 31 August 2014, the Government of Israel issued orders for the seizure of nearly 4,000 dunums of Palestinian land, constituting approximately 1,000 acres, in an area between Bethlehem and Al-Khalil in the West Bank. Israeli occupying forces posted orders for the confiscation of this land, which is privately owned by several Palestinian families, and declared it to be "state land" for Israel.

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This decision represents the largest Israeli land grab in the Occupied State of Palestine in at least three decades. Moreover, Israeli officials have publicly declared that a political directive to expedite the seizure of the land was issued in direct retaliation for the killing of three Israeli settlers in June. Peace Now, an Israeli organization tracking illegal settlement activities, has stated that if this seizure of land is to proceed, it would "dramatically change the reality" in the area, as it facilitates the expansion of illegal Israeli settlements, particularly the so-called "Gvaot" settlement and the so-called "Gush Etzion bloc" of settlements, which would further fragment, isolate and suffocate the Palestinian cities, towns and villages in this area of the southern West Bank, including, inter alia, the villages of Surif, Jaba'a and Wadi Fukin.

At the same time, the occupying Power has also continued with its demolition of Palestinian properties and displacement of Palestinian civilians as part and parcel of its illegal, expansionist colonization schemes. This has included the demolition today of a dairy factory in Al-Khalil and five Bedouin homes and four farming structures east of Occupied East Jerusalem, with these areas declared "closed military zones", bringing the total number of demolitions of Palestinian properties in the West Bank since the start of 2014 to 359 homes and structures.

The Palestinian leadership condemns these illegal, destructive actions and calls on the international community, including the Security Council, to demand an end to all of Israel's illegal policies and practices in the Occupied State of Palestine and to demand that Israel, the occupying Power, rescind this latest decision for the seizure of Palestinian land. Should Israel continue to ignore the calls and the will of the international community in this regard we call for the immediate consideration of measures to compel Israel's compliance with international law and relevant United Nations resolutions, with the aim of bringing an end to this illegal, destructive colonization of occupied Palestinian land and salvaging the dim prospects for a viable two-State solution, before it is too late.

At the same time, we must draw the international community's attention to the continuing suffering of the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip. While the ceasefire continues to hold, the reality in Gaza is one of an ongoing trauma due to the wanton killing and massive destruction inflicted by Israel, the occupying Power, on our besieged people. While emergency humanitarian aid has begun to reach civilians in need, including via the continued valiant efforts of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the World Food Programme, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund and other humanitarian organizations on the ground, the disastrous impact of Israel's military onslaught has created unprecedented humanitarian needs for even the most basic living essentials, including clean water, with all of the health risks and socioeconomic consequences in this regard.

Food insecurity in Gaza remains high, with the majority of the population dependent on food aid for survival. At least 58,000 displaced Palestinians continue to shelter at UNRWA schools, while nearly 50,000 others continue to shelter with host families, with nowhere to return following the massive destruction of homes and entire neighbourhoods by the Israeli occupying forces, which has rendered more than 100,000 people homeless. The lives of Palestinian fishermen continue to be endangered as Israeli occupying forces persist in firing upon them and obstructing

their access to the six-mile nautical limit agreed to in the ceasefire agreement. In reality, despite the commitment in the ceasefire agreement to lift the restrictions, Israel continues to impose its immoral and inhumane blockade on Gaza.

Moreover, medical facilities in Gaza continue to be overwhelmed and lack the necessary supplies to properly treat the injured and sick, jeopardizing the lives of many civilians in need. In this regard, I regret to draw attention to the deaths of two more Palestinian victims of Israel's lethal assaults on Gaza, as another child, Ziad Al-Reefi, age 9, died of wounds sustained in an Israeli airstrike on Gaza City on 21 August, which also killed four other members of the Al-Reefi family, and Basim Ajjur, age 55, succumbed today to wounds sustained two weeks ago in an Israeli airstrike that hit his home and also claimed the life of his 20-year-old son, Saad. Their deaths raise the death toll from this latest Israeli military aggression on Gaza to more than 2,150 Palestinians, and the lives of many more critically wounded persons tragically remain at risk. Also today, another Palestinian civilian was killed by the occupying forces in the West Bank. Mohammed Naim Sabri Al-Qani, age 25, was shot and killed at a checkpoint near Qalqilya when soldiers fired upon a car carrying Palestinian workers, bringing the total killed since June 2014 in the West Bank to 33 Palestinians.

We appeal once again to the international community to give due attention to this grave crisis being suffered by the Palestinian people in the Occupied State of Palestine at the hands of Israel, the occupying Power, and to act collectively and immediately, in accordance with international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, to rectify this ongoing injustice, including via the necessary measures to hold Israel accountable for its war crimes against the Palestinian people. The Security Council in particular must act to uphold its Charter duties and address this crisis. The silence of the Council at this critical juncture following the ceasefire that brought an end to the deadly Israeli offensive against the defenceless Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip and destabilization of the situation is unacceptable. The Council must act forthwith and contribute to the international efforts to redress this crisis and to contribute towards the promotion of calm and ultimately salvage the diminishing prospects for a peaceful two-State solution, if at all possible.

This letter is in follow-up to our 520 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 27 August 2014 (A/ES-10/655-S/2014/634), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed against the Palestinian people. Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable, and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations